

FIRE HORROR AT CHICAGO.

Nearly Six Hundred People Perished in the Iroquois Theatre.

It was an Awful Catastrophe---Women and Children Fatally Burned in Their Seats.

Hundreds of People Trampled to Death in the Wild Rush to Escape from the Burning Building---Explosions of Gas Added Terror to the Dreadful Scene.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—About 550 people were killed in ten minutes Wednesday afternoon during a fire in the Iroquois Theatre, the newest, the largest and as far as human power could make it, the safest theatre in Chicago. Estimates of the dead and injured vary. The police account of the dead is 556. The estimate of the newspapers is 562.

The fire broke out during the second act of the play "Mr. Blue Beard," which was the first dramatic production given in the theatre since its erection. The company, which was very large, escaped to the street in safety, nearly all of them, however, being compelled to flee into the snowy streets with no clothing but their stage costumes. A few members of the company sustained minor injuries.

The accounts of the origin of the fire are conflicting and none of them certain, but the best reason given is that an electric wire near the lower part of a piece of drop scenery suddenly broke and was grounded. The fire spread rapidly toward the front of the stage, causing the members of the chorus who were then engaged in the performance to flee to the wings with screams of terror. The fire up to this time was not serious and probably could have been checked had not the asbestos curtain failed to work. As soon as the fire was discovered, Eddie Foy, the chief comedian of the company, shouted to lower the curtain, and this was immediately done. It descended about half way and then stuck.

The fire thus was given practically a free through which a strong draft was setting, aided by the doors which had been thrown open in the front of the theatre. With a roar and a bound, the flames shot through the opening over the heads of the people on the first floor and reaching clear up to those in the first balcony, caught them and burned them to death where they sat.

Immediately following this rush of flames there came an explosion which lifted the entire roof of the theatre from its walls, shattering the great skylight into fragments. As soon as the flames first appeared beyond the curtain a man in the rear of the hall shouted "Fire! Fire!" and the entire audience rose as one person and made for the doors.

It is believed that the explosion was caused by the flames coming in contact with the gas reservoirs of the theatre, causing them to burst.

The theatre is modelled after the Opera Comique in Paris and from the rear of each balcony there are three doors leading out to passageways toward the front of the theatre. Two of these doorways are at the end of the balcony and one in the center.

Outside of the people burned and suffocated by gas, it was in these two doorways on the first and second balconies that the greatest loss of life occurred. When the firemen entered the building the dead were found stretched in a pile reaching from the head of the staircase at least eight feet from the door, back to a point five feet in the rear of the door.

This mass of dead bodies in the center of the doorway reached to within two feet of the top of the passageway. All of the corpses at this point were women and children. The fight for life which must have taken place at these two points is something that is simply beyond human power adequately to describe. Only a faint idea of its horror could be derived from the aspect of the bodies as they lay. Women on top of these masses of dead had been overtaken by death as they were crawling on their hands and knees over the bodies of those who had died before.

Bodies lay in the first and second balconies in great numbers. In some places they were piled up in the aisles three and four deep, where one had fallen and others tripped over the prostrate forms, and all had died where they lay, evidently suffocated by the gas. Others were bent over backs of seats where they had been thrown by the rush of people for the doors and killed with hardly a chance to rise from their seats.

In the aisles nearest to the doors the scenes were harrowing in the extreme. Bodies lay in every conceivable attitude half naked, the look on their faces revealing some portion of the agony which must have preceded their death. There were scores and scores of people whose entire face had been trampled completely off by the heels of those who rushed over them and in one aisle the body of a man was found with not a vestige of

clothing, flesh or bone remaining above his waist line.

The theatre had been constructed but a short time and all its equipment was not yet in place. This was unfortunately the case with a fire escape in the rear of the building. The small iron balconies to which the iron ladder was to be attached were up, but the ladder had not yet been constructed.

Those who reached the platform first endeavored to hold their footing and to keep back the crowd that pressed upon them from the rear. The effort was utterly useless and in a few moments the iron ledges were jammed with crowds of women who screamed, fought and tore at each other like maniacs. This lasted but a brief interval, and the rush from the interior of the building became so violent that many of them were crowded off and fell to the granite-paved alley below. Others leaped from the platform, fracturing legs and arms and two were picked up at this point with fractured skulls, having been killed instantly.

The building in which the calamity occurred stands midway between State and Dearborn streets on the north side of Randolph street.

Although all the patrol wagons and every ambulance owned by the city was pressed into service, they were utterly inadequate to carry away the dead and in a short time there was a line of corpses 50 feet long piled two and three high on the sidewalk in front of the theatre.

Doctors and trained nurses were on the ground by the score within half an hour after the extent of the calamity was known, and every wounded person who was carried from the building receiving prompt medical aid.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—Sunday was a day of funerals in Chicago and for the first time in the history of the city all of the people who desired to bury their dead were unable to do so. The unprecedented demand for hearses and carriages would have been enough in itself to task to the very utmost the resources of the undertakers, but the heavy snow that has fallen during the last two days increased their difficulties enormously.

The cemeteries were compelled to keep men at work all through the night digging graves, and in some of the larger cemeteries they barely managed to make them with sufficient speed. At one time in the afternoon 14 burials were in progress in Rosehill cemetery and all of them were the interments of victims of the fire.

In the home of the millionaire manufacturer, Ludwig Wolff, on Washington boulevard, was held the quadruple funeral of his daughter, Mrs. William H. Garn, and her three children. A crowd of more than 1,000 people surrounded the house, and the police were compelled to open a passageway for the pallbearers when they left the house with the caskets.

A funeral conducted in a humble manner was held a few squares from the Wolff residence. It was that of Mrs. Mary W. Holst and her three children, all of whom died in the ill-fated second balcony. Fully as many people were around the small frame church in which this funeral was held as gathered outside the Wolff mansion, and here, as in front of Mr. Wolff's residence, the police were compelled to open a passageway for the caskets as they were borne to the hearses.

These are but instances of what happened throughout Chicago yesterday.

Formally charged with manslaughter, Managers Will J. Davis and Harry J. Powers, of the Iroquois Theatre, with City Building Commissioner Williams, were on Saturday held under bonds of \$10,000 each.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—As a result of the Iroquois theatre fire and panic in which 550 persons lost their lives, Building Commissioner Williams last night issued an order closing all public halls, dance halls and all similar places of public assembly until an inspection has shown that they are complying with all provisions of the building ordinance. All the theatres have already been closed. This leaves Chicago churches and lodge halls alone open for public gatherings.

As there are upwards of 400 halls in Chicago, ranging in size from those that will accommodate 50 persons to those with a seating capacity of 500, this order will affect probably as many persons as the theatre closing order. Protesters were numerous, but the building commissioner was inflexible.

Made Thousands Idle.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—The closing down of Chicago theatres by order of Mayor Harrison has caused paralysis of business in many directions. Three thousand actors, stage hands and people who depend directly on the theatre for a living are idle, with no hope of employment for probably a fortnight. Restaurants that cater to the theatrical audiences have laid off many employees. The hotels are complaining and traffic on the street railways has fallen off at night. Even the electric light signs which gave a dazzling effect to some of the streets have been cut off.

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Moses T. Clough, aged 89 years, the nestor of the Rensselaer county bar and the last survivor of the class of 1854 of Dartmouth College; William Shaw, head of the law firm of Shaw, Bailey & Murphy, and Benjamin W. Kinney, manager of the Fuller-Warren Co., of Boston, lost their lives in a fire which partially destroyed the Troy club at an early hour Wednesday. Although the doomed men were seen at the windows, nothing could be done to save them, so dense was the smoke and so rapid the progress of the flames. The loss is \$55,000.

GUTTED BY FIRE.

Iowa's State Capitol Is Badly Damaged.

The Northwest Wing of the Structure Destroyed—Building Was Supposed to Be Fireproof—Loss About \$500,000—Origin of Fire Unknown.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 5.—Fire yesterday gutted the northwest wing of the Iowa capitol, causing a loss of \$500,000. The chamber of the house of representatives is a charred mass of debris and cannot be repaired in time for the approaching session of the legislature. At one time it was thought that the entire building was doomed, and Gov. Cummins ordered the contents of all the offices removed. It was announced last night that the convening of the legislature would not be postponed, but it would meet next Monday in temporary quarters.

The origin of the fire is unknown and Gov. Cummins will order an investigation. The supposition is that it started from a candle or from an electric light wire.

The fire originated near a shaft in a committee room and spread upward and all around the ceilings of the chamber.

The fire department was hindered in fighting the flames by the height of the building and the elevation of the capitol. They worked only to cut off the progress of the flames.

The gallery of the house chamber fell with a crash, the debris injuring two firemen and endangering the lives of several. The state library was hastily removed and the state offices were emptied.

The funds of the state treasurer were hastily loaded on a wagon and carried to a bank.

Gov. Cummins, clad in rubber boots and rough coat, fought the fire. The fire finally burned itself out.

The capitol presents a scene of desolation. The marble staircases are covered with ice, the floors are flowing with water and the offices under the burned part of the building are flooded. The Iowa capitol is built along the lines of the New York capitol at Albany. It cost \$3,000,000. The state capitol commission had just completed the repair of the building at a cost of \$125,000, most of which had been expended in the chamber which is ruined.

The building was supposed to be fireproof, but the use of several false ceilings furnished material for flames.

A VICTORY FOR DIETRICH.

The Indictment Charging Conspiracy to Bribe Is Quashed.

Omaha, Jan. 5.—At the beginning yesterday the trial of United States Senator Charles H. Dietrich, Judge Vandever in sustaining a demurrer by defendant's counsel in effect quashed the leading indictment of conspiracy to violate the statute against bribery. On this indictment the government had prepared itself for trial and subpoenaed a large number of witnesses. Indictments charging the senator with profiting by the leasing of a building for the United States government while a member of congress, and charging him directly with bribery in connection with the appointment of a postmaster at Hastings, Neb., still stand.

Senator Dietrich was charged with alleged conspiracy with Jacob Fisher, postmaster at Hastings, Neb., to violate the statute against bribery, and with direct violation of the bribery law. Gen. Cowin, counsel for Senator Dietrich, filed a demurrer to the conspiracy indictment, attacking its sufficiency and alleging that it would have the effect of placing the senator on trial twice on the same charge. This point was bitterly contested by opposing counsel.

After two hours' consideration Judge Vandever sustained the demurrer.

A BANDIT'S BROTHERS.

They're Arrested for Smuggling Saws Into the Cell Occupied by Their Relative.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Otto Roeski, 22 years old, and Herman Roeski, 33 years of age, brothers of Emil Roeski, under indictment for the car barn murders, were arrested here Monday. Suspicion that they planned to blow up the county jail to liberate their brother was aroused on a first report that they had nitroglycerine, candles, steel saws and files when arrested. Later it was denied that they had nitroglycerine.

After arrest Otto Roeski confessed to smuggling saws to his brother, Emil, in the county jail. The saws used by Emil Roeski in attempting to escape were found in his cell, concealed in a slight crevice in the steel plating in the ceiling. They had been ingeniously concealed between the ceiling proper and the steel plating, soap being smeared over the crevice.

Asylum Emagged by Fire.

Taunton, Mass., Jan. 5.—With every room and many of the halls filled with patients and the outside temperature at zero, the upper story of the women's wing of the state insane hospital caught fire just before midnight last night and while the flames were raging fiercely every one of the 500 female patients was safely conducted through the smoke choked corridors to the men's department.

No Fortifications in the Philippines.

Washington, Jan. 5.—A report submitted by the joint army and navy board of which Admiral Dewey is the senior member, relative to fortifications for the Philippines, transmitted to the house yesterday by Secretaries Root and Moody said: "The policy of congress may be assumed to be to hold the Philippines in American possession as against any foreign enemy, but although the islands have been in our possession more than five years, not a gun has been mounted nor any earthwork raised to protect any of our harbors."

PROMINENT DEMOCRATS DINE.

A Notable Assemblage of the Party's Leaders in New York City.

New York, Jan. 5.—Democrats of prominence from the city, state and nation, assembled here last night at the dinner at Sherry's in honor of George B. McClellan, the newly installed mayor of New York City, among those present being Richard Olney, of Massachusetts; ex-Gov. David B. Hill, of New York; Congressman De Armond, of Missouri; Charles A. Towne, ex-senator from Minnesota; ex-Gov. Patterson, of Pennsylvania; William E. Gaston, of Boston, and Charles F. Murphy, now leader of Tammany Hall.

Grover Cleveland, Judge Alton B. Parker, Senator Gorman, of Maryland, and Senator John P. Morgan, of Alabama, sent letters of regret.

The speakers included Mayor McClellan, Richard Olney, David B. Hill, Charles A. Towne and Congressman De Armond. Ex-Congressman Bourke Cockran, who acted as toastmaster, introduced as the first speaker Mayor McClellan.

Mr. Olney was then introduced as a diplomatist who had never followed the policy of wandering around the world seeking quarrels with weaker nations, and as the "pride of New England, but enthroned in the hearts of all his countrymen." He made a speech in which he said Grover Cleveland was the logical candidate for president.

Gov. Montague, of Virginia, followed Mr. Olney.

Ex-Gov. David B. Hill was greeted with loud applause when in his introductory remarks he eulogized the leadership of Charles F. Murphy and predicted that Mayor McClellan would be governor of the state and finally go to the White House. He made a bitter attack on President Roosevelt.

Mr. Hill was followed by Congressman De Armond and ex-Senator Towne, both of whom spoke enthusiastically on the democratic outlook. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. De Armond read a message of greeting from William J. Bryan, sent by wireless telegraph from the White Star liner Celtic, on which Mr. Bryan is a passenger, returning from Europe.

The message, which was received when the Celtic was off the Nova Scotian coast, read:

"William J. Bryan sends greetings to the democrats assembled at Sherry's. I wish you a happy new year and hope you will have a brilliant success. My heart is with you. Do not forget the western democrats who polled 6,500,000 votes in 1900."

A TRAIN HELD UP.

Striking Miners Took Drastic Measures to Prevent Importation of Negroes.

Connellsville, Pa., Jan. 5.—Five hundred striking miners of the Merchants' Coal Co. in Somerset county, gathered at Garrett Sunday night and held up a special train carrying about 60 negroes to the Boswell mines of the company on the Berlin branch of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. The train ran as a third section of the Duquesne limited and it was almost midnight when it approached the station at McFadden. The strikers would not permit the operators in the tower to throw the switches and it was some time before the train was permitted to go through. When it reached Garrett, where connections are made, the men had gathered fully 500 strong. The switches were nailed down and under but one consideration were the men willing to permit the engines and cars to be switched upon the Berlin branch. This consideration was that the cars be emptied.

By this time the negroes were in a terrible state of excitement and many of them jumped through the windows and made off. After several hours' parleying and the sending of many messages to headquarters the train was sent on to Rockwood with the few remaining negroes in the coaches. The miners made no attempt to injure the negroes, but were determined that their importation into the field should not be accomplished. The miners have been out since December 16, when they refused to accept a reduction in wages.

Score One for Wood.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The senate committee on military affairs yesterday decided to report favorably the nomination of Gen. Leonard Wood to be major general. The vote stood 7 to 2, the affirmative senators being Proctor, Warren, Foraker, Quarles, Alger, Cockrell and Pettus; the negatives Scott and Blackburn.

A Famous Lawyer Dies.

New York, Jan. 5.—Col. Thomas C. Campbell, a well known lawyer, who assisted in the prosecution of the assassins of Gov. Goebel, of Kentucky, died Monday in a sanitarium in Brooklyn, as the result of his experiences in the schooner yacht Roamer, which was wrecked December 10, on Rum Cay, in the Bahamas.

Important Appointments.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The president yesterday sent to the senate the nomination of William H. Taft, of Ohio, to be secretary of war. The president also nominated Luke E. Wright, of Tennessee, to be civil governor of the Philippine Islands and Henry C. Ide, of Vermont, to be vice civil governor of the Philippine Islands.

Nominated for Congress.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—Samuel J. Randall, son of the former speaker of the house of representatives, was yesterday nominated for congress by the democrats of the Third district. This is the district represented by his distinguished father. The district is overwhelmingly republican.

Gravelle Is Sentenced.

Helena, Mont., Jan. 5.—Isaac Gravelle, convicted of sending threatening letters to the Northern Pacific Railroad Co., was sentenced yesterday to ten years in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$5,000.



Many women are denied the happiness of children through derangement of the generative organs. Mrs. Beyer advises women to use Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I suffered with stomach complaint for years. I got so bad that I could not carry my children but five months, then would have a miscarriage. The last time I became pregnant, my husband got me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. After taking the first bottle I was relieved of the sickness of stomach, and began to feel better in every way. I continued its use and was enabled to carry my baby to maturity. I now have a nice baby girl, and can work better than I ever could before. I am like a new woman."—MRS. FRANK BEYER, 22 S. Second St., Meriden, Conn.

Another case which proves that no other medicine in the world accomplishes the same results as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.



"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I was married for five years and gave birth to two premature children. After that I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and it changed me from a weak, nervous woman to a strong, happy and healthy wife within seven months. Within two years a lovely little girl was born, who is the pride and joy of my household. If every woman who is cured feels as grateful and happy as I do, you must have a host of friends, for every day I bless you for the light, health and happiness Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has brought to my home. Sincerely yours, MRS. MAE P. WHARRY, Flat 31, The Norman, Milwaukee, Wis."

Actual sterility in woman is very rare. If any woman thinks she is sterile let her write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., whose advice is given free to all would-be and expectant mothers.

\$5000 FORFEIT if we cannot forthwith produce the original letters and signatures of above testimonials, which will prove their absolute genuineness. Lydia E. Pinkham Med. Co., Lynn, Mass.

MINIMIZING THE PAIN.

He Wanted the Best Watch, But Didn't Like to Pay the Price All at One Time.

"What's that watch worth?" asked Mr. Kleece, pointing to one in the show-case. "Ten dollars," replied the jeweler. "I'll take it," said the customer, and after paying for it he went out, relates Yout's Companion. The next day he came round again. "This watch doesn't exactly suit me," he said. "What's that one worth?" pointing to another. "Fifteen dollars."

"I'll take that instead of this one, if you don't mind."

"Certainly."

A day or two later he came again. "How good a watch have you got for \$25?" he inquired.

"Well, \$25 will get a pretty good time-piece," said the jeweler, handing one out. "Here's one with a gold-filled case, and jeweled. The movement is warranted."

"I'll take it."

He paid the difference, took the watch and went away.

After the lapse of a few days he made his appearance once more.

"Have you got a first-class watch with a solid gold case that you can sell for \$50?" he said.

"Yes. Here it is," said Mr. Kleece. "Here's the other watch and \$25. That's the one I really wanted at first, but I hated to pay out all that money at once."

Capitalization has proved to be a somewhat unsatisfactory substitute for capital. —Puck.

COMPLETELY RESTORED.

Mrs. P. Brunzel, wife of P. Brunzel, stock dealer, residence 3111 Grand Ave., Everett, Wash., says: "For fifteen years I suffered with terrible pain in my back. I did not know what it was to enjoy a night's rest and arose in the morning feeling tired and unrefreshed. My suffering sometimes was simply indescribable. When I finished the first box of Doan's Kidney Pills I felt like a different woman. I continued until I had taken five boxes." Doan's Kidney Pills act very effectively, very promptly, relieve the aching pains and all other annoying difficulties. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists, price 50 cents per box.

Coughing is an outward sign of inward disease. Cure the disease with

Shiloh's Consumption Cure The Lung Tonic and the cough will stop. Try it to-night. If it doesn't benefit you, we'll give your money back.

Prices: S. C. WELLS & CO. 7 25c. 50c. \$1. LeRoy, N. Y., Toronto, Can.

It is natural for a cannibal to love his fellow man.—Chicago Daily News.

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Millions of acres of unoccupied Grain and Grazing Lands to be had as a free gift, or by purchase from Railway Companies, Land Corporations, etc.

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